



Safety and Justice Roundtable

One-Year Update

August 10, 2010





Background information

- Safety & Justice Roundtable formed in December 2007
- 18 members appointed by both City Council and County Commission
- Co-chaired by Jean Twitty and Dr. Robert Spence
- Final Report presented in July 2009



Top seven priorities

1. Solving Police-Fire Pension Fund shortfall
2. Reducing jail population
3. Improving the Family & Juvenile Justice System
4. Combining emergency response agency facilities
5. Enhancing data sharing and interagency communications
6. Increasing staffing throughout system
7. Expanding facilities



No. 1 - Police / Fire Pension Fund

- Collection of $\frac{3}{4}\text{¢}$ Pension Fund sales tax began April 1
- Since April 1 \$4,157,410 collected and deposited
- Citizens Sales Tax Oversight Committee began in July
- Pension Plan formally closed; latest hires were enrolled in LAGERS
- Eliminated Tier II; employees moved to LAGERS
- City Council is keeping its commitments



No. 2 - Reducing Jail Population

- Daily population average during first half 2010 = 476; down from 2009 = 493 and 2008 = 538
- Sheriff's Office assigned 3 population control positions
- One works closely with Circuit Courts and dockets to bring inmates to trial more quickly. Two others are assigned to unserved warrants, but are funded via a one-year grant ending Sept. 30
- Circuit Clerk staff also working through unserved warrants backlog
- Unserved warrants dropped from 18,000 to 14,800



No. 2 - Reducing Jail Population

(cont.)

- Circuit Court is executing a plan in order to expedite the number of criminal cases brought to trial
- Court maximizing the number of jury trials conducted
- Associate Division Judges scheduled more time for jury trials, making them more available to back up Circuit Judges
- Increased coordination among all players is moving court cases faster



No. 2 - Reducing Jail Population

(cont.)

- Jail population is swelling this summer, due to a combination of factors, including seasonal; recently reached 560
- Recent Public Defender's Office changes likely to negatively impact population
- State budget cuts reduced per diem reimbursements for housing state prisoners from \$22 to \$19.58
 - Actual daily cost: \$46 per person. Reduction likely to cost Greene County an additional \$350,000 per year



No. 3 – Improving Family & Juvenile Justice System

- Greene County Juvenile Office has several grant-funded programs for at-risk youth including: Drug Court/ Reclaiming Futures; Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative; Fostering Court Improvement Initiative
- Each program works with community groups such as Burrell Behavioral Health; CASA; Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association; universities, school districts, law enforcement; and children's homes
- County has a plan to expand Family & Juvenile Court facilities, but no funds currently available
- Budget issues make it difficult to fill vacancies



No. 4 – Combining Emergency Response Agency Facilities

- Construction of the Public Safety Center scheduled to begin this fall
- Will house E-911 and Greene County Office of Emergency Management
- Will be built on current parking lot space at Scott Street and Campbell Avenue
- County purchased / razed Springfield Laundry building on Boonville to offset lost parking
- Expected completion in fall 2011

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No. 5 – Enhancing Data Sharing & Interagency Communication

- Sheriff's Office committed to upgrading Records Management System (RMS) for compatibility with SPD's system, though funding is uncertain
- Police Department currently updating its RMS
- Both agencies continue to use MoDEX, however, system allows limited type of information exchange
- Sheriff and Police Chief meet regularly to discuss this and other issues



No. 6 – Increasing Staffing Throughout the System

- City hired 22 new police officers, 10 new fire fighters Currently in academies for training
- Second police and fire academies are planned during FY2011
- Despite hiring freeze, City filled Police and Fire Chief positions
- Sheriff's Office completed a comparative study on staffing, highlighting a significant shortage in staffing and disparity between SPD and Sheriff's Office
- County currently operating under a hiring freeze implemented in 2009, with more than 50 staff vacancies



No. 7 – Expanding Facilities (County)

- County morgue design to be completed by end of 2010, construction to begin in 2011
- Lack of courtroom and juvenile facility space continues to be a significant unfunded need
- Estimated cost of Family & Juvenile Court expansion: \$12-15 million



No. 7 – Expanding Facilities (City)

- City scheduled to go out for construction bids this fall for phase I of a regional police/fire training facility
- Training facility is funded by Level Property Tax. Phase II funding not yet identified
- City purchased land, with federal funds, within Government Plaza footprint that could be used for a Municipal Court facility, though funding for construction has not been identified

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Other topics





Public Defender's Office

- State system remains woefully underfunded and understaffed, particularly in the 31st Circuit serving Greene, Christian and Taney counties
- Now accepting limited number of cases each month
- Major impact expected on jail population
- Ending in 2009, SMBA attorneys' pro bono work was helpful, but not a sustainable means to deal with case overload
- Increased Public Defender funding is among Greene County's top legislative priorities



Video Conferencing

- The Missouri Department of Corrections currently has 19 facilities with video conferencing, up from 5 earlier this year. The 31st Circuit Court is now regularly conducting hearings via video with defendants in those facilities

Additional Judges & Courtroom Space

- In view of the state's financial situation, Greene County does not expect funding for additional staff, judges or courtroom space in the foreseeable future



Probable Cause Statements

- Greene County Sheriff reports PC statements being processed faster
- This is due in part to the education and diligence of supervisors and investigators in reviewing the statements in a timely manner.

Outreach to Minority Job Applicants

- The City has been and continues to explore ways to reach minority applicants, including job fairs at minority-sponsored events, recruiting at universities with diverse populations, and military bases



Strategic Planning

- SJR Final Report was one of five community reports used to generate the Strategic Plan chapters. Includes chapters on:
 - Global Perspectives and Diversity
 - Public Safety
 - Early Childhood Development

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Handout

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Questions?

